

## HOUSE RESOLUTION 165

By Gilmore

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize the Opportunities Industrialization Centers of America on the occasion of its fiftieth anniversary.

WHEREAS, the Opportunities Industrialization Centers (OIC) of America was established in 1964 in Philadelphia by the late Reverend Leon Sullivan to enable economically disadvantaged people of all races and backgrounds to become productive, fulfilled members of American society; and

WHEREAS, for the past fifty years, the OIC of America has embraced a philosophy of “Self Help” and the system of developing the “whole person,” which enables individuals to become self-sufficient, productive workers; and

WHEREAS, the OIC of America provides quality education, training, employment, and housing through a national network of forty-four local affiliated organizations in twenty-two states; and

WHEREAS, OIC of America and its affiliates have trained over two million people nationwide and supported thousands of entrepreneurs since the organization’s origin; and

WHEREAS, OIC Movement founder Reverend Leon Sullivan was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom and nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Sullivan was the first African American appointed to the Board of Directors of General Motors in 1971, and utilized his position to establish the Sullivan Principles, which were a critical tool in applying economic pressure to end the unjust system of apartheid; and

WHEREAS, the Global Sullivan Principles of Corporate Social Responsibility expanded the call for multinational companies to play a much larger role in the advancement of human rights and social justice; and

WHEREAS, OIC of America was instrumental in the development of Progress Plaza, the first African American owned shopping plaza in America; and

WHEREAS, OIC International was established in 1969 and expanded the organization's work to Africa and around the world; and

WHEREAS, Nashville OIC was founded in February 1968 to meet an urgent need in the African American community for adult education, training, and job placement; since that time, Nashville OIC has helped thousands of people by providing them with the skills necessary to become productive and self-sufficient members of society; and

WHEREAS, on July 1, 2003, Nashville OIC launched Hand Up, a name taken from one of Reverend Sullivan's sayings: "A hand up, not a handout"; and

WHEREAS, since May 2008, Helena Farrow, a four-year employee at the time, has served as Executive Director of Nashville OIC; and

WHEREAS, OIC provides GED preparation, computer training, and job placement services to those individuals who are ready and willing to build better lives for themselves and their families and for their communities; and

WHEREAS, the programs of OIC have a common goal of helping each client get a job and achieve financial independence; and

WHEREAS, Nashville OIC's results in these programs can be measured objectively and the value thereof readily translated into economic and societal benefits; after factoring in the number of years between the student's age and the age of sixty-five, the present value of expected increased earnings of the twenty-five OIC students who gained a GED in 2012-13 is \$4,447,151; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that on the occasion of the

organization's fiftieth anniversary, we honor the administration, employees, and volunteers of Opportunities Industrialization Centers of America on their ongoing commitment to providing economically disadvantaged citizens with educational opportunities that will enable them to become productive and self-sufficient members of society and wish them much continued success in their future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we also thank Nashville OIC for its many valuable contributions to social equality and financial independence in the great state of Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.